

Times-Courier

Your Hometown Newspaper Devoted To The Progress of Gilmer County

Thursday, March 7, 2002

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Out on a limb

"A time for building and saving?"

by Al Summers

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Mission accomplished. After many years of being the world's biggest (not in size) Jerry Lee Lewis fan, I finally got to hang out with 'the Killer' at his birthday bash last September in Memphis. For those of you who have visited my cubicle at the Times-Courier, you have seen the picture of Jerry Lee and me.

To keep from stagnating, one must always have goals, and one of my goals was to meet Ferriday, Louisiana's "holy trinity"...Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart, and Mickey Gilley. After having many people tell me that it was "about impossible" to attain such a lofty objective, by chance it came to pass this past weekend.

The sleepy little town of Ferriday converted their old post office into the Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame with the help of Louisiana Secretary of State Fox McKeithen. The secretary is a music lover and is proud of the music heritage of his state. He has put together a music cavalcade that will travel to nine Louisiana cities this spring to promote Louisiana's musicians.

The first stop was Ferriday, where cousins Lewis, Swaggart, and Gilley, along with jazz/blues/rock trombonist Leon "Peewee" Whitaker, who died in 1993, were the initial inductees into the museum and hall of fame. All three of the musical cousins had planned on attending the ceremony, but Lewis opted to remain at his home in Nesbit, Miss. after a "glitch" with the airplane, which was to bring the Killer to Ferriday, made him uncomfortable to fly.

Brother Swaggart and Gilley didn't disappoint the crowd of nearly 10,000, the reverend singing "Amazing Grace" and Gilley doing a medley of his hits, finishing up with Lewis' rock and roll anthem, "Great Balls of Fire". And I left Ferriday with film in my camera that hopefully had an exposure of me sandwiched between the two.

With this latest goal attained, I wonder if Elvis is still flipping burgers somewhere in Ohio?

Random Thoughts

by Dub Joiner

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Funny things happen to dogs. I bet that if you have a dog as a family pet, you can think of some funny story about yours.

Our son Donny, the actor who lives in Alpharatta, called home to say he had to take his pet lab to an emergency clinic over the weekend. (Would you believe they have emergency clinics for dogs). We immediately thought she was sick or hurt. He said she was moaning and having a hard time sitting down. So we thought, right, she ate something and can't pass it. Well, would you believe a sprung tail!

We knew she had a tail we called dangerous because of all the things she knocks down with it, but a sprung tail!

Come to find out, it has happened to her at least three times in the past.

I've heard of all sort of things, but a sprung tail!

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Letters to the Editor

Lauds Ellijay Mayor

Kudos to Al Hoyle. Most importantly, he personally shot down the arrest rumors made against him. Finally, we have an elected official who doesn't let things steam.

Secondly, he responded to my rather heavy handed letter about the shoddy job done on the railroad tracks. Although I didn't name or blame him (nor did I have any idea he was in the middle of it), he stepped up to the plate again with his rebuttal.

It speaks well of an elected official to be responsive. Next time, maybe I will talk to him first.

Besides, he plays quality bluegrass!

Jim Laubler

Ellijay

Motocross track

Despite all of the opposition to the Ellijay Motocross Track, it appears that the owners, namely Ronald Armstrong Jr, his son Ronnie Armstrong, owner of Creative Landscaping and Randy Becker, have elected to continue with construction of their track.

Because Gilmer County has no land use ordinances in place, they feel that they are completely justified in going ahead with their plans, despite the many phone calls, letters and conversations they have had with residents opposed to it.

I would ask all the residents of Gilmer, how they would feel waking up every morning to the sound of motorcycles going around and around next to their property. This noise carries over five miles in these hills and valleys, and many people will be affected.

Zoning is necessary, and is in place just about everywhere to prevent this very thing from happening. My wife and I, along with our many neighbors, have worked long and hard to have our homes be the kind of places we want to come home to, not to mention the fact that this is our biggest investment as well.

Now, it appears our quiet and peaceful homes will be threatened by the constant bombardment of noise from this track. What makes matters worse is that this is not from some outside investment group, but from three local residents who should certainly know better.

I, and my neighbors would ask every resident that they not use this track. I would ask them if they would like to have their homes invaded with the noise this will bring.

I would ask them if they would treat their neighbors in this manner, or if they would like this track next to their homes.

It may seem innocent enough to take your kids and go use this track, but please stop and think about the effect this has on us, the area homeowners.

There are plenty of places to ride motorbikes in the area. You don't have to ride in the middle of a residential area, with many of your friends and neighbors so negatively affected.

Jeff and Dee Miller
Ellijay

A special thanks

A big salute and thank you to Sandy Lyons for the support and tireless work he has done for our veterans and North Georgia Honor Guard.

Clarence Leatherwood
Ellijay

Gas prices too high

Have you noticed the gas prices in Gilmer County? Do you know that one distributor controls these prices? Do you know that you can drive 14 miles north on Hwy. 515 into Fannin County and pay only 94.9 cents per gallon? That is a current savings of 11 cents per gallon. We need to take action to reduce these outrageous prices. We need to buy our gas in Fannin County to force these prices down. Losing sales is the only thing that will get this distributor's attention! Take action now!

Joy Madden
Ellijay

Holden House history

My name is Robin Patascher. I live in Spring Hill, Fla. I came across the Times-Courier website today and was excited to see the photo of my great, great, great grandfather's (Ozias Holden) cabin, The Holden House, which is located on 52 East. Ozias Holden was born Jan. 8, 1793, and died Apr. 6, 1869.

My husband Barry and our two children have been visiting the Ellijay area two to three times a year since 1992. We fell in love with the area and purchased a river lot in the Coosawattee River Resort in 1997.

Upon returning to Florida, I shared our good news with my grandmother, Mary Lee Barlow (maiden name Holden). She was so excited and shared with me that our family (the Holdens) were from Ellijay, that my great, great, great grandfather had a cabin on 52 East across from the Apple Barrell.

Our next trip up, we visited the cabin, which by the way is barely 'holden' together! We have visited the cabin many times since, as it somehow has a special place in our hearts.

Little did we know when we purchased our property and began construction of our own cabin in Ellijay, that we had a family history in Ellijay. But it somehow felt like home.

We have a plaque hanging in our cabin that says, "I wasn't born in Ellijay, but I got here as fast as I could."

We have taken a photo of the Holden House and placed it in our cabin. And so the Holden tradition goes on in Ellijay, family members building their homes on a river. Ozias' home is on the Cartecay, ours is on the Coosawattee.

I've been told that the home was built in the early 1820s. Ozias came to Gilmer County while the Indians were still there. He bought land from the Indians along the Cartecay River, paying for the purchase with one pony and \$20 in gold. Indians continued to live on the land for quite some time, living in wigwams along the banks of the river.

In 1828, Ozias married Mary Polly Stephens, a relative of Alexander Stephens, who was vice president of the Confederate States of America. He built a house of logs cut from the nearby forest and 11 children were born and reared in that home.

After Ozias' death, his son Robert Alexander Holden, inherited the homestead where he lived

and reared a family of
eight children.

I hope this home is restored and I'm glad to see the county is taking heart of its early settlers.

Robin Patascher
Spring Hill, Fla.

Write a letter to the editor. We'd like to have your opinion!

About Letters

Our readers are invited to submit letters to the editor. They should be brief, 100 words or less. They will be subject to editing for space and content.

All letters must be signed to be printed. Send them by fax (706) 635-7006 or by mail to: Letters, Times-Courier, PO Box 1076, Ellijay GA 30540 or editor@timescourier.com.

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